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Letter dated 2 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you a statement by the Government of Burundi regarding the local and parliamentary elections held on 29 June 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Burundi regarding the election of deputies and the election of commune councillors held on 29 June 2015

The Government of Burundi, based on the preliminary reports of the territorial administration and representatives of the national police and the national defence force, wishes to inform national and international opinion that it views highly positively the conditions in which the election of deputies and the election of commune councillors were held across the country on 29 June 2015.

Peace, calm and security marked both these polling processes, which certain detractors of Burundi democracy had for several months classified as "lacking in credibility". Participation in the elections of 29 June was massive and free, revealing the determination of the Burundi electorate to change, by means of the ballot box, the composition of the country's institutions as current terms of office end.

In the municipality of Bujumbura, citizens who wished to vote were able to do so freely despite plans, which were fortunately thwarted by the police, to intimidate people in the areas recently affected by unrest. Thanks to the relocation of certain polling stations, no incidents were recorded whatsoever.

In the provinces away from the capital, the behaviour of voters surprised several national and international observers: by noon, over 95 per cent of registered voters had already carried out their civic duty and cast their ballots. This proves that those who had repeatedly demanded the postponement of the elections were holding the people and electoral process of Burundi hostage.

The Government of Burundi takes this opportunity to thank the people, the territorial administration and, in particular, the defence and security forces, for their joint action to ensure the safety of the voters and electoral personnel and to secure the elections nationwide. The Government would also like to congratulate and thank the numerous national, regional and international observers who travelled to the districts and *collines* of Burundi to monitor the unfolding of the elections of 29 June 2015.

Burundi is of the view that, by doing so, the observers accredited by the Independent National Electoral Commission contributed to the consolidation of peace and democracy in our country.

The Government of Burundi recalls, however, that the mission of electoral observers is to report on the facts and course of the polling process, not to validate or invalidate the elections, which is the exclusive remit of the institutions empowered to do so under the Constitution of Burundi.

In that regard, the Government of Burundi wishes to express its concern about the pressure that might be exerted on national and international observers — including

those of the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi — by certain persons and other outside actors who spoke out against holding these elections and even withdrew their observers, the aim of such pressure being to negatively influence the observers' reports on the holding of the two polls conducted on 29 June.

If this proves to be the case, our country would be facing the hidden agenda of these actors at a time when the Burundi people are filled with joy and pride at having exercised their rights and fulfilled their patriotic duty by freely electing their future leaders.

The Government of Burundi hopes that the invited national and international observers will work wholly freely and independently in accordance with their code of ethics.

While awaiting the provisional results of the elections of 29 June, the Government of Burundi calls on the whole population to prepare once again, in the same calm manner, for the forthcoming elections of the president and the senate in July 2015 and for the election of councillors at the district and *colline* levels in August 2015.

Finally, it calls on all candidates to support democracy and to not disappoint the electorate.

Done at Bujumbura, 2 July 2015

Philippe **Nzobonariba**
Secretary-General and Spokesperson for the Government